

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 ACDA-19 OMB-01 IGA-02 DRC-01 /132 W

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R 020955Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8356

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2641

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MCAP, LA

SUBJECT: SECRETARY KISSINGER'S LETTER AND INDOCHINA  
POLICY COMMENT

REF: VIENTIANE A-020

1. WIRELESS FILE APRIL 2 CARRIED TEXT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S LETTER TO SENATOR KENNEDY, ALONG WITH STATE DEPARTMENT COMMENT ON POINTS RAISED BY THE SENATOR IN A LETTER TO DR. KISSINGER. NARRATIVE COMMENTING ON LAOS IS EXCELLENT, BUT WE ARE PERPLEXED BY TWO APPARENTLY ERRONEOUS REFERENCES TO U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND TO NUMBER OF U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL IN LAOS ON PAGES FIVE AND SIX OF WIRELESS FILE VERSION.

2. ON PAGE FIVE, THE STATEMENT SAYS THAT "OUR MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO SOUTH VIETNAM AND LAOS IS PROVIDED UNDER MASF." SUBSEQUENT PAGE GIVES BREAKDOWN OF THE FIGURES FOR FY 75. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, LAOS MILITARY ASSISTANCE WILL BE FUNDED UNDER MAP, NOT MASF, IN FY-75.

3. ON PAGE SIX, STATEMENT AND BREAKDOWN INDICATES THAT THERE WILL BE NO U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL IN LAOS  
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AS OF DECEMBER 1974, "BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT A COALITION GOVERNMENT WILL BE FORMED IN LAOS BEFORE THE

END OF THIS YEAR." AS DEPARTMENT AWARE FROM NUMEROUS  
MESSAGES, ARTICLE 15(A) OF THE SEPTEMBER 14 LAOS PROTOCOL

PERMITS FOREIGN MILITARY PERSONNEL "ON THE LISTS OF  
EMBASSIES RECOGNIZED BY THE PGNU TO REMAIN IN LAOS."  
LASTSUMMER WE SECURED THE PRIME MINISTER'S APPROVAL FOR  
A DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFIIE MILITARY COMPLEMEN OF THIRTY  
PERSONNELA. ON FEBRUARY 14, 1974, WE SUBMITTED NAMES OF  
THIRTY MILITARY PERSONNEL TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND  
RECEIVED APPROVAL FROM HIM BY LETTER ON FEBRUARY 25.  
REFERENCE OUTLINES THIS MATTER.

4. WE ARE CONCERNED THATIF THE STATEMENTS INDICATED  
ABOVE ARE NOT RECTIFIED FOR THE PUBLIC RECORD, THEY WILL  
BE USED BY CRITICS OF U.S. POLICY IN LAOS TO DAMAGE  
CREDIBILITY OF ARRANGEMENTS WE HAVE PATIENTLY NEGOTIATED  
OVER THE PAST YEAR. WE WOULD THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT  
CORRECTION OF BOTH THESE POINTS BE ISSUED BY DEPARTMENT  
SPOKESMAN.  
WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Draft Date:** 02 APR 1974  
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